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Malaysia

Livestock and Products

Avian Influenza Follow-up Report 2004

Approved by:

Joani Dong
U.S. Embassy, Kuala Lumpur

Prepared by:

Raymond Hoh

Report Highlights:

Malaysian efforts to curb the Avian Influenza virus prove to effective, but the final verdict is up to the lifting of the ban by importing countries.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Kuala Lumpur [MY1]
[MY]

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The Malaysian Veterinary Services Department has taken all necessary steps to keep the avian influenza (AI) virus from spreading. Some 352 chickens, pet birds and ducks were culled and burned in an incinerator on August 19. Quarantine was imposed on a 10-kilometer radius around the village for 21 days. Continuous checks on poultry in areas within the 10 km radius have revealed that there are no new sign of the HPAI. All 290 households in the affected village have been banned from rearing any chicken, duck or pet bird for at least three weeks. According to a local press, the three people who were warded since the outbreak as a precautionary measure were confirmed to be free from on the AI virus. Malaysia's swift and transparent handling the outbreak received high praise from the World Health Organization (WHO) regional director, Dr. Shigeru Omi.

While consumers are still eating poultry meat, demand for chicken meat is said to have dipped by 20 percent. Local prices have dropped by RM1 (US\$0.26) to RM2.50 (US\$0.65) per kilogram. Poultry farmers claimed to loss about RM2 million (US\$526,000) a day due the outbreak.

The Malaysian authority is now working on regaining the confidence of the countries (Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and the EU) that have banned imports of Malaysian poultry. Post sees that the situation could quickly return to normal once Singapore lift the import ban.